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claims were settled it was proposed that Canada be ceded to the United States in lieu of a cash payment. Russia expected America to press her claims and so hinder England at a time when the two rivals were likely to go to war, but was disappointed. The rest of the study deals with the federation of the Dominion of Canada and with questions of a purely American character between Canada and the United States. Mr. Callahan has made an interesting chapter of a side of the international life of America which is quite apart from the ordinary range of historical topics. His clear, coherent narrative shows a mastery of facts. He has special aptitude for dealing with diplomatic subjects.

**THE ACQUISITION OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL RIGHTS OF MAN IN AMERICA.** By John Bach McMaster, Professor of American History at the University of Pennsylvania. Sold by Charles Orr, Director of Schools, Cleveland, Ohio. Price, \$1.00. 123 pages.

When our ancestors found that petitions made to England on conservative lines had failed, they based their claim of independence on natural and inalienable rights, such as the equality of all men, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But when they had won their independence and came to make their State constitutions and statutes, they perpetuated some of the old ideas which, from the theoretical standpoint, they would have gladly cast aside, but which, having inherited with British institutions, they could not at once abolish. These natural rights had to be won for the after generations of American people by brave and persistent agitation. In some States it was years before Hebrews, Atheists and Catholics began to be treated like Protestant Christians at the polls, before a property qualification for voting or for holding office was abolished, before imprisonment for debt was given up, before the hours of labor were shortened, before even the blessing of the public school system was put into effective operation. As Professor McMaster points out, our fathers were in no sense "disorganizers" or "anarchists," but they moved slowly, waiting for an opportunity to do things "decently and in order." So the rights of man were steadily extended. The story of these changes from 1776 to about 1850 is told in a clear, flowing narrative, which is divided into three lectures. These lectures were given by Professor McMaster at the Western Reserve University a few years ago under the auspices of the Western Reserve Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and were afterward privately printed in attractive form. There are only a few copies of the book left.

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF MODERN EUROPE.** By Archibald Weir, M. A. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 340 pages.

Mr. Weir's introduction is not a narrative nor a handbook of facts, neither is it a primer which presents a complicated subject in a way that a beginner can easily understand it; it is a reasoned review of the events and tendencies of modern European history. Its broad range of subjects implies considerable scholarship on the part of the reader. It ought to be a good guide for teachers

of history who are free to go beyond the conventional range of topics in their teaching, and it is one of the purposes of the book to be such a guide. Mr. Weir puts together the facts that relate to the development of literature, education, religion, government, political, economic and social reform, science and philosophy within the past hundred and fifty years. All the great movements and many of the great personalities of this period are sketched briefly and with discrimination. The chief countries of Europe are dealt with, and England is covered fully. The last chapter of the book, "Resultant Ideas and Tendencies," is a summary. In this chapter he discusses progress. He gives a chronological table of events from 1670 to 1829, together with a list of important books on his subject, some of which are in French and German.

**THE JUSTICE OF THE MEXICAN WAR.** By Charles A. Owen, M. A. (Yale.) Formerly of Staff Fourth Division, Second Corps, Army of the Potomac. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 276 pages. Price, \$1.25 net.

For many years the Mexican War has been practically universally condemned as a great national sin and wrong on the part of our country against Mexico. This book is an attempt "to vindicate the justice of that war, to acquit the United States, as a nation, of the most serious, if not the only, charge ever laid against her honor, and to remove the cloud from her just title to her largest possession." The author takes issue with the conclusions of many prominent historians about this war, and undertakes to show that they have followed a bad method in the writing of this part of the history of our country. It must be confessed that he has made, in many respects, an interesting book. He takes the reader over the stirring events of that decade, and makes use of every possible incident and turn of affairs to support his contention that our government was justified in its attack upon Mexico and in taking from her so large a portion of her territory. But his writing reads much more like the special pleading of a lawyer than like the work of an impartial historian. In order to come to any just conclusion as to the merits of the position which he takes, his work should be read alongside of Judge William Jay's "Review of the Mexican War" and other similar writings of men who were in a position, at the time of the war or just after it, to understand the workings of the selfish and designing spirit which has always been considered to have been at the root of the war, whatever superficial occurrences may have brought on actual hostilities. The judgment of history is against Mr. Owen, and it is not likely that he will be able to change it. But his book will well repay a most careful reading.

**DAYBREAK IN TURKEY.** By James L. Barton, D.D., Secretary of the American Board. Boston: The Pilgrim Press. 287 pages.

The purpose of this unusually instructive and interesting book, all of which, except the final chapter, was written before the revolution of the 24th of July, 1908, can best be told in the author's own words: "The purpose from the beginning has been briefly and clearly to set forth the various historical, religious, racial, material,